

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 11297 071600Z

ACTION CA-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 PRS-01 PA-02 A-01

/033 W

-----130244 071605Z /41

P 071549Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1692

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL AMSTERDAM

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 11297

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, BE

SUBJ: NBC-TV PROGRAM ON CONSULAR SERVICE:

"PASSPORT TO THE UNKNOWN".

(1) DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO ADMINISTRATOR, SCA,
BARBARA WATSON;

(2) AMEMBASSY, THE HAGUE, FOR AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY;

(3) AMCONSUL, AMSTERDAM, FOR CONSUL GENERAL LAGASSE.

1. WITH ASSISTANCE OF EMBASSY'S PRESS OFFICER, CONSULAR OFFICER JAMES H. LASSITER OBTAINED FROM USIA, WASHINGTON, A TAPE OF NBC-TV'S "PASSPORT TO THE UNKNOWN". THE TV "DOCUMENTARY" WAS RECENTLY SCREENED FOR THE CONSULAR SECTION'S AMERICAN OFFICER AND LOCAL STAFF. THE TAPE WILL BE RE-PLAYED ON SEPTEMBER 9 ESPECIALLY FOR THE AMBASSADOR, DCM AND TWENTY-FIVE KEY EMBASSY OFFICERS AND LOCAL STAFF. FOLLOWING THE SEPTEMBER 9 SCREENING, LASSITER WILL ANSWER QUESTIONS GENERATED BY THE PROGRAM IN AN ATTEMPT TO EXPLAIN TO EMPLOYEES UNFAMILIAR WITH PROTECTION & WELFARE WORK WHAT EVEN THE MOST CREATIVE, RESOURCEFUL CONSULAR OFFICER CAN AND CANNOT DO TO ASSIST USCITS
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ABROAD.

2. IN SPITE OF THE PROGRAM'S OBVIOUS DEFICIENCIES, BOTH AS TV JOURNALISM AND IN CLEARLY EXPLAINING THE POSSIBILITIES AND LIMITATIONS PLACED ON CONSULAR OFFICERS ABROAD, AND THE DEPARTMENT, IN ASSISTING USCITS IN TROUBLE, LASSITER BELIEVES THE NBC TAPE SHOULD BE VIEWED BY OTHER

CONSULAR OFFICERS, LOCAL CONSULAR STAFFS AND OTHER NON-CONSULAR OFFICERS (WITH APPROPRIATE EXPLANATIONS) AS AN EXAMPLE OF INADEQUATE MEDIA REPORTING VIS-A-VISA CONSULAR WORK AND THE PITFALLS THAT CONSULAR OFFICERS ARE "HEIR TO".

3. ON A RECENT VISIT TO AMCONGEN, AMSTERDAM, LASSITER DISCUSSED THE NBC-TV PROGRAM WITH CONSUL GENERAL LAGASSE AND CONSULAR OFFICERS WHO EXPRESSED A STRONG DESIRE TO SEE THE TAPE. LAGASSE EXPRESSED OPINION THAT CONSULAR OFFICERS IN ROTTERDAM AND NON-CONSULAR OFFICER IN THE HAGUE COULD PROFIT IF THE PROGRAM WERE SCREENED IN THE NETHERLANDS (FOR "IN-HOUSE" USE ONLY). HE SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH AMBASSADOR MCCLOSKEY.

4. LASSITER SEEKS THE ADVICE AND GUIDANCE OF SCA IN THIS MATTER. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE THE EMBASSY ASAP IF THE DEPARTMENT HAS ANY OBJECTION IF THE TAPE IS DISTRIBUTED TO SELECTED EMBASSIES AND CONSULATES IN WESTERN EUROPE FOR SCREENING UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF COMPETENT CONSULAR OFFICERS.

5. IF THE DEPARTMENT AND SCA AGREE TO THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE TAPE WHEN BRUSSELS HAS SCREENED IT ON SEPTEMBER 9, PLEASE SEND THE EMBASSY TELEGRAPHICALLY A LIST OF SUGGESTED POSTS (IN ADDITION TO POSTS IN HOLLAND) TO UNCLASSIFIED

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RECEIVE THE TAPE AND METHOD OF ADVISING SELECTED POSTS OF TAPES ARRIVAL.

6. PLEASE NOTE: USIA OBTAINED THE NBC TAPE ON LOAN FOR USE ABROAD ON U.S. PREMISES ONLY (IT IS NOT RPT NOT FOR GENERAL PUBLIC SHOWING) WITH THE STIPULATION THAT IT BE RETURNED TO USIA FOR ERASURE WITHIN SIXTY (60) DAYS OF RECEIPT IN BRUSSELS. EMBASSY RECEIVED TAPE ON AUGUST 26 WHICH MEANS THAT LAST POST RECEIVING THE PROGRAM MUST PREPARE IT FOR SHIPMENT TO USIA IN WASHINGTON ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 26 UNLESS USIA COULD ARRANGE WITH NBC FOR AN EXTENSION OF THE SIXTY DAY DEADLINE. CHAMBERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770992/aaaaczta.tel
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1370302
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NBC-TV PROGRAM ON CONSULAR SERVICE: "PASSPORT TO THE UNKNOWN". (1) DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO ADMINISTRATOR, SCA
TAGS: CASC, BE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2645034d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009